

Georgetown Times

Wednesday
May 11, 2005

Georgetown County's Community Newspaper
www.gtowntimes.com

Only 25¢
Vol. 207 No. 56

Pawleys resident wins recycling prize: new car

By Tommy Howard
STAFF WRITER

Nancy Mawra and her family learned Tuesday that it definitely pays to recycle.

The family gathered with local and national officials at Beach Ford in Myrtle Beach to receive a Ford Escape Hybrid SUV worth about \$26,000.

Last November, her triplet daughters came home from school telling their mom she needed to sign a card.

That card, a pledge to do more recycling at home, was the winning entry among more than 190,000 cards and pledges from across the country in the America Recycles Day (ARD) campaign.

Jenny Grier of the Environmental Education Center, Georgetown County Public Services Department, took materials by Waccamaw Elementary School. She spoke with teachers, encouraging them to get their students to talk about and think about recycling.

Nancy Mawra signed the pledge, and her husband, David, said the family has taken it to heart.

"We were really excited. We never won anything before," she said. Her daughters told her it was important to sign the card.

"We go to the recycling center off Waverly Road about once a week," David Mawra said.

The family has separate containers at home for newspapers, cardboard boxes, cans and plastics, and for regular yard waste. They take those items to the recycling center, where county staff transport them to the county landfill.

"This is making us more aware about recycling," he said.

"It pays to recycle."

The 8-year-old triplets are Brianna, Jackie and Alex.

Grier noted the three girls are among the students at Waccamaw Elementary School who placed third in the county among all schools for a homework paper recycling contest earlier in the year.

Others attending the presentation included Thomas Niemann of Ford Motor Co., Meg Morris, chairman of the board of America Recycles Day, Holly Storey of DHEC's state recycling office, and Kate Krebs, executive director of the National Recycling Coalition.

America Recycles awards prizes such as fuel-efficient cars, bikes composed of recycled content, and in some years, eco-friendly houses to raise awareness of the importance of recycling and buying products made from recycled materials. In 2004, Americans of all ages from all 50 states filled out pledge cards, which were entered into the drawing. The pledge cards, submitted at more than 900 America Recycles events nationwide and via the America Recycles Web site, ask participants to affirm their commitment to recycling and buying recycled products.

Niemann, manager of Environmental Outreach and Strategy for Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan, is proud of the Escape Hybrid. "It's the most fuel-efficient SUV on the planet," Niemann told the Times. In fact, he said, it gets even better city mileage than highway mileage, because the electric power train is in operation at speeds below 30 mph.

The engine also converts braking energy into electrical energy that's stored in a special battery. Once the hybrid vehicle goes above 30 mph, there's "a seamless transition to the internal combustion engine," Niemann said.

About 30 pounds of plastic and nylon under the vehicle's hood are recycled materials, he continued. And, some "85 percent of the vehicle is recyclable at the end of its useful life."

Ford is proud to be a part of the campaign that promotes recycling, Niemann said. DHEC coordinates America Recycles events in South Carolina.

"By actively participating in America Recycles campaigns, South Carolina is doing an excellent job of making its residents aware of the value of recycling and buying recycled products," said Morris.

The ARD website, <http://www.americarecyclesday.org>, has plenty of information about the benefits of recycling. Krebs of the National Recycling Coalition said "I'm thrilled. It's the perfect ending to continue pledging to recycle."

"They had a recycling program at school, came home and talked to their folks about it," she said of the daughters. The three girls and their parents moved to Pawleys Island last July. In fact, their mom said, they celebrated their birthday on the road.

After receiving the keys to the SUV, Nancy Mawra and her family took their new car for a ride back to Pawleys Island.

Husband David is a registered, licensed home inspector. Nancy is assistant caretaker at All Saints Church at Pawleys Island.

Contact Tommy Howard at 546- 4148, ext. 230, or by e-mail at thoward@gtowntimes.com.



Nancy Mawra of Pawleys Island won this Ford Escape Hybrid SUV Tuesday in the national America Recycles Day (ARD) campaign. She's shown at Beach Ford in Myrtle Beach with, from left, Holly Storey of DHEC, Jennifer Grier with Georgetown County Public Services Department, David Mawra, Mawra, Thomas Niemann of Ford Motor Co., Kate Krebs of the National Recycling Coalition, and Meg Morris, national chairman of ARD. Pictured at bottom center are Steve Kullen, national ARD program coordinator, and Alex, Jackie, and Brianna Mawra.